

Culbertson (H)
CLOSING ADDRESS

TO THE

CLASS

OF THE

Columbus Medical College,

135-

—BY—

H. Culbertson, M.D.

PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

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DEDICATION.

I can only wish this effort were more worthy ; but trusting the imperfections will be overlooked in the good intention, these lines are respectfully dedicated to the Class by

H. CULBERTSON.

PARTING ADDRESS.

Before this course shall terminate,
We aim to cite and briefly state
Some points which more important seem,
Among the topics of our theme.

We trust the lessons you have heard,
Are deep within your mem'ries stor'd,
To give you mast'ry o'er disease,
And thus your future patrons please.

Watch close the "windows of the soul",
Their fell diseases well control,
Be skillful as you act your part,
In healing lesions through your art.

Inspect the case in every way,
And to each sign attention pay;
No hasty diagnosis form,—
To simple marks* of cure conform.

Do not forget the hidden taints,
Which rest on sinners and on saints,
And modify so oft the case,
Among the sickly human race.

*Indications.

Now Struma holds relentless sway,
 As diseases on the eye may prey ;—
 Now "Venerius" rears its head,
 And with disease is deeply wed ;

To-day, anaemia plays its role
 O'er disease we would control ;—
 Or now, the Rheuma* taints the frame,
 And painfully the eyes inflame :—

Old Gutta† too may mar the case,
 In some of our afflicted race ;
 And miasmata be the bane,
 Which blights the sight we would obtain.

To symptoms slight or mark'd attend,
 For soreness may to pain extend,
 The potent pain may ne'er appear,
 If met by agents mild, severe :

Find out if pain comes on at night,
 If sudden, sharp, or only slight,
 If firmly fix'd in orbit deep,
 Or if beyond its margin leap ;

And if 'tis of recurrent type,
 Or more, if influenc'd by the light ;
 Think on these observations made,—
 And in what part the lesion's laid.

See now, the swelling of the eye,
 Observing closely—carefully
 If seat'd on the lid or ball 'tis found,
 Or spreads from other regions round.

* Rheumatism. † Gout.

The color of the parts you note,
 If light or dark, or shades of both,
 See form of the injection through
 The "*conjunctive*" and cornea too.

Look at secretions of the eye,
 If thin, or bland, or alkali,
 Or thick and of a citrine cast,
 Of if mucoid from first to last ;

Observe the "*quantum*" of the fluid,
 And quarter whence it may exude,
 Be sure it fall not on your eye
 Or patient's other—carelessly.

Feel too the heat about this part,
 As well the beating of the heart ;
 Learn now, that, Galezowskies find
 The "*conjunctive*," to heat inclin'd ;

But if inflam'd the "*cornee*" be,
 The heat at lower range we see ;
 Measure then, by thermometric art,
 The body general, as well the part.

The pupils motions now discern,
 Form, size, and their position learn,
 Or if adhesions firmly bind
 The veil, in front or broad behind ;

See the iris in its structure fine,
 If parts are swoll'n, or to waste incline ;
 View its location in the eye,
 And size of chambers carefully.

Let the patient cast the eyes about,
Up and downward, within, without,
And learn if palsy or crossed-eye
Mars the body o'er, or partially.

See if the lens be crystalline,
Or to opacity it incline;
And look you with ophthalmoscope
The fundus o'er, in all its scope.

Let fall the light on optic nerve,—
Note form, its hue, and vessel's curve;
View the changes in the "*retine*"* found,
And note effusion its vessels round;

Or if the change in choroid lay,
From branches ret'nal a space away;
The size of vessels too confirm,
If smaller or some larger, learn;

And if the throbs arterial seem,
(No sign of greater value seen);
Or if 'tis but a venous wave,
And has no meaning good or grave.

Be careful ne'er prognosticate
Too fair results, but rather state
The issue of the case will show
What 'til then we cannot know;

For should not the hope be realiz'd
You may be sharply criticis'd;
But if the end proves more than thought,
All censure will be set at naught.

*Retina.

To aid in treatment of disease,
 With single drugs the sick appease ;
 For many forces bring confusion
 And much compoundings a delusion

Remember, too, that Colchicum
 Will cure the painful eyes of some ;
 And that Potass Iodidi
 Will heal diseases of the eye.

Think of Mercurius in its place,
 But use it not in careless haste.
 Be chary with this mighty arm,
 It acts for good as well as harm

Do not forget to scarify
 The temples round about the eye ;
 And Conjunctiva oft incise,
 If you should find it clearosiz'd

And blisters too, behind the ears,
 Will oft allay the patient's fears
 And slowly bring a tardy cure,
 Resolve disease and sight restore

Puncture of the cornea too,
 We now and then may wisely do,
 And thus at once relieve the pain,
 And mastery of the case obtain.

The extract of Chinchona Bark
 May oft the cause of fevers mark,
 Breaking up malarial chill,
 And thus an indication fill.

Your iron too may have its share,
The wasted globules to repair,
And nerve as well as blood improve,
And bad nutrition thus remove.

The lancet too may be of use,
If employed without abuse,
When prompt impression you would make
And hasty course of case must break.

Do not forget the Atrophine,
Its greatest good is anodyne,
Contracting well the vessels small,
And opens up the pupil all.

The anstrip'd muscle it will quiet,
And in optic spasm, try it.
Be sure you use it in Iritis,
Forget it not in Keratitis.

Astringents strong do not apply,
When mucous tissues of the eye
Are in the active painful stage —
Then some other means purgize.

And wait until the heat has pass'd
And ease as solace now is found.
When astringents may be used,
And mildest caution not abused.

'Tis well to state the fact just here,
That we may use with little fear
Astringent fluids, bold and free,
When on the conjunctivæ we see
Mucus and pus in quantity.

In granulations of the eye,
The mildest measures we apply,
And give ourselves a month or year,
To heal and not the lids to sear.

Do not forget the heat and cold,
Applied about the eyes as told,
With care find out which is the best —
And trying is the only test.

Lay on the bandage o'er the brow,
(Compression is the fashion now),
'Tis said to stint secretion free
And limit vascularity.

To diet give the greatest heed,
For this will oft your notice need,
It now should be of lightest form,—
Or often strong and proteidiform.

Depend on strychnin's potent power,
To tone the nerves from hour to hour,
And strengthen brain-cells in their play
In aid of life, from day to day.

Do not forget kind Opium,
Which quells the pains of everyone,
A healing balm in eyedisease
No agent gives us greater ease.

No prospect of regaining sight,
You surely will do well and right
In reaching not the worthless eye,
But pass the case in kindness by.

And now my friends and patient class,
To end our lectures come at last, you
Quire soon you leave these College Halls
And pass without where duty calls;

Some office students still will be,
And others students "*naturae*";
Your guide* will lead you on each day
But nature thwarts you every way.

Now, to students we remark—
Dive deep in books, ere you embark
In practice of the healing art,
Or in stern life you take a part.

And ponder well the lines you read,
For that to great success may lead,
Or give to you no longer name
Upon the glorious scroll of fame.

Fix principles within the mind,
Combsunt then you'll never find
Let system have its perfect way,
In all you do, or think, or say.

To you, the graduates, we turn,
And then would have you early learn
That men too oft are much inclined
To blame the doctor wise and kind.

Few foolish think our noble art
Perfection is in every part;
Our science we know is not exact
(We candidly admit the fact);

*Preceptor.

They think of it as but a trade,
 And claim no error should be made;
 We would to God this were the case;
 Then should our skill with art keep pace

And deaths be only here and there
 Among the young, the sick, the fair,
 And end in death would but confirm
 Of "dust thou art, to dust return."

But let us turn from such a theme
 And better, nobler, higher seem,
 In looking at the doctors' deed.
 As for humanity he pleads.

Think of his long and patient care,
 Of sick, of poor, of morn, of fair,
 And oft how dark our homes would be
 If blindness came with poverty.

Think of the fact, he deals with life
 And aids his fellows in the strife
 Against misfortune and despair,
 And this to which our flesh is heir.

But think you this, that men forget—
 No! No! my friends, they never let
 The noblest deeds of any class,
 Unsung, untold, forever pass.

Is it forgot, the Master healed the blind
 By fiat of his holy nature kind?
 Timæus son, Bartimæus named,
 By faith his wonted sight regained?

Another, blind, to Bethsaida came,
 On shore of Galilee of no'd fame,
 And when the Healer touched his eyes
 He saw the "men and trees" in natural size.

Again He soothed the eyes with clay,
 And sent one blind to Sh'chem away;
 Two men rejoicing newly'd his sight,—
 Ken on the Sabbath this year right!

And when at Nazareth he came,
 Two blind men, learning of his name,
 Seeking a restoration by His pow'r,
 Were cur'd within the suspicious hour.

Then practice baid the healing art
 And well and skillful put your part.
 'Tis then the wise, the true, the just,
 Will life and honor with you trust.

'Tis said the good scarce ever die,
 (In this there is no mystery,)
 And doctors too in mind shall live,
 While love and charity survive.

And now, my kind and faithful class,
 A fond farewell! we say at last,
 And whate'er befalls you later,
 Ne'er forget your "alma mater."

EMENDATIONS.

Page 7, line 4, read "cornee."

" 10, " 2, " "globules."

" 10, " 14, " "and in the &c."

" 10, " 24, " "abus'd."

" 12, " 16, " "On the &c."

" 14, " 8, " "right."

" 14, " 11, " omit "a."

